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Approved For Release 2001/07/28 : CIA-RDP78-04309A000100070017-1

Chief, Operations School

13 August 1956

Chief Instructor, CE

Final Course Report,
Counterespionage Operations No. 4

1. Counterespionage Operations Course No. 4 ended on 10 August 1956. Fifteen students—a full complement—represented FE, NEA, SR, OTR, and SE. Grades ranged from GS-6 to GS-14. The experience level of the group was, of course, quite uneven. It is perhaps noteworthy that one of the students is a physician, a member of the Agency's Medical Office, who attended the course as part of his career development.

2. The Staff experienced some difficulty in obtaining speakers since the vacation and military leave seasons are in full bloom. One seminar had three speakers who had never participated previously, and one of these—named by the CI Staff—had literally only minutes to prepare. This unwanted situation developed when one of the usual participants was forced to cancel his appearance without previous warning shortly before he was scheduled to lecture. Another seminar likewise has a participant making his first appearance. It is obvious, as [REDACTED] has previously reported, that the seminars in this course need further attention by the Staff, and they shall receive it as soon as time permits.

3. This group, in general, was very critical. Most of their venom was saved for speakers who arrived late for the appointments and those who overstayed their time limits. Some representative criticisms are set out below:

a. [REDACTED] FE, GS-13: "The most interesting course I have taken so far."

b. [REDACTED] CI Staff: Commenting on the lectures and seminars: "Well organized...Excelent. I got a good deal out of this particular seminar...."

c. [REDACTED] FE, GS-14: "Most appropriate. I have wanted to take this course for sometime. I feel, regardless of my future assignment, I am better able to understand certain aspects of operations."

c. [REDACTED] NEA, GS-11: "Course was well done, enjoyed very much and of definite value."

DOC 3	REV DATE 2-4-80	BY 029725
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e. [REDACTED] SR, GS-12: "As a newcomer in CE, the course has helped me realize some of the problems I will be faced with...."

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f. [REDACTED] SR, GS-9: "In my coming assignment, this course will give me some assistance although not too much in that I will not be involved in much CE work...."

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g. [REDACTED] FE, GS-12: "This course was very well administered—instructors are very good in establishing rapport with students—good class discussions prove this."

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h. [REDACTED] Career Development (NEA), GS-14: "The course will, I hope, be of very practical value to me...."

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i. [REDACTED] OTR, GS-11: "The course is of extreme value to me and my assignment, and should prove extremely beneficial."

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j. [REDACTED] SR, GS-11: "I emerge from the course bloody, but grateful for opportunity to have had training. Also very much aware of gaps in my knowledge."

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k. [REDACTED] FE, GS-11: "...very valuable for future field work and my work on the desk."

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l. [REDACTED] FE, GS-9: "Very good. The more practical application the better."

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m. [REDACTED] SR, GS-6: Commenting on the lectures and seminars: "All very good, interesting and helpful."

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n. [REDACTED] FE, GS-12: Commenting on the practical value of the course, "This I cannot answer until I actually perform CE duties."

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o. [REDACTED] FE, GS-13: "I believe this a good course and very well organized...."

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4. [REDACTED] is preparing a statistical review of the critiques for our future guidance, and they may be obtained from her at any time.

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5. Counterespionage Operations No. 4 followed closely the pattern set by [REDACTED] It varied only in that an hour-long lecture by [REDACTED] on Maison and an hour-long movie on the [REDACTED] were added. Both of these were enthusiastically received by the Students.

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6. The course still has a number of weaknesses. [REDACTED] pointed out many of these in his last memorandum. As time permits, the present Staff hopes to address itself to these points.

7. Counterespionage Operations Course No. 5 is scheduled to begin on 4 September 1956.

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[REDACTED]